

M I N U T E S

PRINCIPAL STAFF MEETING Tuesday, October 11, 2005

Present:	Ron Hilliard	Truman Wolfe
	Bill O'Donnell	Greg Kist
	Dick Judy	Greg Stone
	Louis Aspey	Pat Bowen
	Rick Heaslip	Herb Andrick
	Carolyn Hefner	Norm Bailey
	Dave Kingsbury	Charlotte Wertz
	Ron Bricker	Roseanne Kennedy

The meeting was called to order by the facilitator Rick Heaslip at 8:00 am.

BILL O'DONNELL

Bill discussed the Business Plan. He has not received everyone's input. He asked everyone to please send them in to him.

HERB ANDRICK

He and Ron Hilliard attend the Farm Bill Listening Session in Elkins last Friday. There were 168 farmers in attendance at this listening session. He realized you cannot please everyone with the Farm Bill. There were a lot of people there representing youth programs, rural development finances, conservation districts, and the Farm Bureau. The Farm Bureau spoke out against the upcoming office closures. We were well represented at this listening session. There were no sleepers at this session to discuss controversial issues. Herb and Ron were happy this went so well. Most things at this session were pretty positive.

BILL O'DONNELL

He will be working on priorities this month. NHQ will be here for the Operations Review the week of November 7-10. We are getting ready for this review. They are also working with the two field offices involved in this review. He is working on the conservation planner policy with Rick Heaslip and his staff. He, Norm Bailey, and Truman Wolfe are working on the Grassland Technicians Contribution Agreement. Bill indicated he would like to have the Business Plan done and also the goals that go along with it. If people need information from Peg Reese, contact her directly. If they need Peg to attend a meeting, etc., request her attendance through Bill O'Donnell.

DICK JUDY

Dick gave an update on the Elkwater Fork Project. The job showing for this project is on Thursday. Bids are due at the end of October. DOH has put in box culverts or plan to do so very soon.

HERB ANDRICK

Herb reminded everyone that all the Farm Bill Programs except CSP are on a continuous sign-up. He then discussed the work being done at the State Office by J.R. Wolfe. Payments should come in to Herb and Diana Doerr will distribute them. Last week someone sent a payment to J.R. Wolfe marked "For Official Use Only." Because J.R. was on leave all last week, this payment was held up. There will be a State Technical Committee Meeting on Thursday at the Morgantown Service Center.

RON BRICKER

Ron has not heard anything from NHQ on the closeout. We do not have any allowances for FY-06 at this time. Ron hopes everything is fine.

TRUMAN WOLFE

They have had a series of awards and legislative dinners over the last month. There are several more of these planned this week. Everyone is welcome to attend. The next State Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 25th at 2:00 p.m. at Guthrie. Bill O'Donnell will represent Ron Hilliard at this meeting.

NORM BAILEY

There will be a State Lime Meeting on Wednesday at Mt. Clare. On October 21 there will be a Grazing Committee Meeting.

GREG KIST

He is very busy working on performance appraisals and award nominations.

PAT BOWEN

He is holding an East Area Staff Meeting tomorrow at Blackwater Falls. Bill O'Donnell will represent Ron Hilliard at this meeting.

GREG STONE

Greg had a question about the certification planner policy. If they find a planner who cannot produce a plan that meets standards, what do they do about this? Rick Heaslip we can de-certify them or give them until December 31st to develop a conservation plan. Rick indicated if you feel someone is not performing to send a letter to Ron Hilliard about this issue. Greg thanked Ron

Hilliard for attending the Greenbrier Valley Conservation District Meeting last week.

DAVE KINGSBURY

Dave indicated they are involved in the Soil Phosphorus Study. Jared Beard is heading up a portion of this study. They are working on the compilation of Monroe County, WV this week. One of the new surveys coming out is Doddridge County. Dave distributed several samples of the new bind they are using at this time for soil surveys.

RON HILLIARD

Ron is leaving tomorrow and will be out of the office until the end of the month. He will have his blackberry and cell phone with him. Ron received award nominations from all three areas and the State Office. He will be working on these nominations today. Carol is in Louisiana for a couple weeks working with FEMA on Hurricane Katrina relief. Ron discussed the Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Guidance memo from Chief Knight that was sent out to Principal Staff last Friday. He also discussed the fact that we are under a continuing resolution for our discretionary funds. We have an apportionment for the WRP, EQIP, FRPP, WHIP and CSP programs. We have no authority to charge to AMA, CRP, or GRP funds. Ron indicated we know we will be working under the same funds as last year. However, we must also absorb a 3.1% pay increase. Ron also reported that as of October 6th, we are under a hiring freeze on filling positions. Ron has a meeting today with GSA on finalizing some of the plans to find a new location for the State Office by FY-07.

Meeting adjourned.